

FIVE YEARS IN AN ENGLISH UNIVERSITY. By
CHARLES ASTOR BRISTOL. In Two Volumes. 12mo.
G. P. Putnam.

These volumes have a two-fold purpose,

The staple exercise is walking, between two and four miles a day, made in the neighborhood of Cambridge—that is to say within four miles of it—are covered with men taking their constitutional.—Larger walks, of twelve or fifteen miles, are frequently taken on Sundays or days succeeding an holiday, and are not infrequently made by men who have gone, not once, but repeated, fifteen miles in three hours, without special training or being the worse for it next day. A number of my acquaintances have been known to do this. A few of them become boating or pulling, and a few of the sport gain excellence of an English University, as sword exercise is of a German, (this was the illustration given by a man who had been at both.) The popular amusement is the running of the horse races, the public games, the cricket, the football, the Spring races, the essay pastry, (which an Englishman never takes much of at any time, generally eating cheese where an American does pie) and confining

MUTTERINGS AND MUSINGS OF AN INVALID.
12mo. ED. 321. JOHN S. TAYLOR.

Here is a specimen of his "bark, worse than his bite." No wonder that he speaks feelingly on the subject of

He is also sensitive to the horrors of a bore, and especially

None but a patient half dead with bile could give such a berating as follows to

AN ASSHOLENATE PREACHER.

The blessed sun is out again, at last. We have had a beautiful, tranquil Sabbath day—went to church this morning. Well, has it done me any good, and is it better for me, than it was before? I am not an inch nearer to the kingdom of heaven than before—my own fault, to doubt. I didn't go in the right spirit. I didn't go as a poor, erring sinner *should* go, to ask pardon for my offenses, and to return thanks for the mercies and benefits I had, no, I went for the first clear case of some one else's sin, to have my fancy tickled, my eyes brightened. I was disappointed, most thoroughly cheated; the atmosphere was oppressive, the music poor, the sermon heavy as lead—I had much better have stayed at home, reading Jeremy Taylor—still, I was served

LECTURES ON THE HISTORY OF FRANCE. By
SIR JAMES SPEDDEN. 2vo. pp. 710. Hurdner & Brothers.

Still, we regard the work as an important and valuable acquisition to the historical student. Written with singular impartiality and fairness, it furnishes an instructive and very agreeable guide through the wilderness of the Middle Ages, unfolding the great political events, in which we find the root of modern institutions, generally noticing the most conspicuous points in the development of literature, and sketching,

with elaborate pencil, the portraits of many eminent characters in statesmanship, letters, and war.

The lectures, twenty-four in number, extend from the period of the decline of the Roman despotism, to the close of the age of Louis XIV., including a discussion of the character and influence of Charlemagne, the Crusades, the Reformation and Religious Wars, the progress of literature in France, and other topics of profound interest.

In three lectures, devoted to "The Power of the Pen in France," Mr. Stephen presents several discriminating sketches of French writers, at different periods, among which those of Abelard, Pascal, Rabelais, and Montaigne are executed with the most success. We make room for his characterization of Montaigne, which gives a favorable specimen of the general style of the volume.

As in most other tyrannies, so in this, the immediate effect of the servitude into which Calvin had subdued the minds of his disciples was to provoke a favorable revolt. When he was giving his disciples lectures to his illustrious Christianite, Michel de Montaigne, who was then in the country, just taken from his seat in the Parliament of Bordeaux. That he afterward became a deputy in the States-General of Blois, though maintained by no inconceivable influence, was not the least important result. It is clear that his early manhood was devoted to public, and especially to judicial affairs. He was thus brought into contact with the busy world at the very age when the great agitation of human society had just occurred, and which was to shake the empire. Marvelous revolutions, and discoveries still more marvelous in the world of letters, of politics, of geography, and of religion; the warfare of the sciences, the struggle of the nations; the most base and of whatever is the worst of whatever is common nature; and calamities which might seem to have fulfilled the most awful of the apocalyptic

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The picture of himself, which Montaigne thus holds up to his readers as a representation of themselves, is not sublime, nor is it beautiful, but it is striking and a masterly likeness. It was never so true as when he was dealing with the most transparent perspicuity, and they who are best entitled to pronounce such a judgment, admire in his language a richness and a curious felicity unknown to any preceding French writers. Even they to whom the style of Montaigne has been so often objected is the easy, the luminous, and the flexible vehicle of his thoughts, had never degenerated into a mere apology for the want of thought, and that his imagination, without ever disgracing his sense, how often has it been able to give such a new and so naturally clothes them with the noblest forms and the most appropriate coloring.

MEXICO: AZTEC, SPANISH AND REPUBLICAN.
By BRANTZ MEYER. In two volumes, 8vo. pp. 432.
358. Hartford: S. Drake & Co.

On the various topics of interest connected with Mexico, both in her past history and her present condition, this work is not likely to

is superseded as a valuable authority. Its design is comprehensive, covering a large field of important information. Commencing with the conquest of Mexico by Cortez, it relates the history of the country under the Vice Royal Government, describes the Revolution and the War of Independence, gives a sketch of the Empire of Irturbide and the Republic, and closes with the War with Texas and the United States. A full account is given of the geography, antiquities, political divisions, commerce, manufactures, domestic institutions and manners, and military affairs of Mexico, with copious notices of the several States and Territories. The author has enjoyed excellent opportunities for the faithful performance of his task. Formerly Secretary of Legation to Mexico, he has had the benefit of personal observation of the country and its people. In addition to this, he has availed himself of a great mass of information obtained from extensive and assiduous research. Mr. Meyer's style is flowing and readable. Without being a master of the difficult art of historical composition, he has produced a lively and agreeable narrative. His work has the high merit of utility, and will not be neglected by readers in quest of important knowledge.

MR. EMERSON ON POWER

The Tabernacle was crowded on Tuesday evening to hear RALPH WALDO EMERSON read a lecture in the People's Course upon "Power." The audience was enchained throughout, and the effect of the serene and stately eloquence of the lecturer was electrical. We give a cursory abstract of a discourse replete with the profoundest wisdom, and rich with the most penetrant wit. May we not hope that Mr. Emerson will repeat in this City, and before long, the course he has lately read in Boston? Certainly the numbers, the attention and the enthusiasm of last evening, must have demonstrated the kind and extent of the audience he would assemble.

The Lecturer commenced by remarking, that of late he had been oftener a hearer than a speaker at the Lyceum, and was struck by the weighty problems there discussed. The Lyceum will become the antidote to the newspaper. Glad to hear of the interest manifested in the People's Course, he should assume that the audience came to think, not to be entertained merely. The faculties of a man are indefinite, who shall limit his influence? Some men carry whole nations with them and lead the life of the day and of the hour. Life is a search after Rome, which lies in all directions. Encomparable

mind, which means it is everywhere. Every noise heard is a seaker, and is satisfied, if out of the mystery of Experience he can compel Power. All great men believe that things go by Law and not by Luck. I intend to speak, said the Lecturer, of no Della Crucian dream, but of the hard old home we know.

Young orators say the secret of the age is here and there. There is but one secret of all ages, and that is Imbecility, in most men at all times, and in all men sometimes. The old Doctors decreed courage to be physical, a certain healthy state of the system given, and valor and success follow. All observation at length points to something central, to the fact that all power is of one kind, that he, the man we want who is in sympathy with the course of things. This large and salient nature certifies success. When James Watt arrives in England, England is actually worth more than before. Such men absorb their inferiors, the clerks work for the merchant, the students for the lawyer, &c.

There is always place for a man of force. It is in the world as with boys at school or with cattle in a pen. There must be a trial of strength between the few comers and the old residents. Then all quietly submit. Spare your much discussion of grafting or patching; the point is the thrifty tree. We must have a leader somehow. If the child grieve over defeat he is lost forever. Before the man of this nameless force every obstacle vanishes, hence our troubles about American politics are needless. The half orator, half assassin comes from some Wisconsin and Utah and we dread the end of things. But the stocks do not decline. Like a thrifty tree growing spite of the lice, lice and borers, so we do not suffer from the profligates who batten upon the treasury. The necessities of the case will teach majesty of manners, fast enough.

This power is not amiable; but it brings its own article. All power develops together, up and down, higher and thicker. The "*Brummers*"—men who have roughly ridden over and through things—have their peculiar vices, but their virtues also, and, since Politics are growing mean, when the question is between civility and force I shall not hesitate. As in Politics so in Trade, this power has a strain of ferocity.

How then shall we deal with this power? Men who have it, burn for adventure. They travel and explore. England is a good animal, and runs up all the mountains and goes for the North-West Pa-

The second means is *Drill*. The regular army beats thrice its numbers of undisciplined men. Stumping seven years through England made Cobden an orator. Disraeli could only shake his fist from a chair during his first speech and roar to the house that roared around him, "one day you shall hear me."

Of the sublime considerations which limit the value of mere talent, the Lecturer said that he could not then speak. They shall have justice done them elsewhere. Every man effects, only as he has this original force. There is no chance in Nature, no more than in the gingham and muslin of the factory. In making them, man reproduces himself, minus his follies. Will a man dare to confront a loom? Let machine meet machine, and watch the issue. More magnificent is a day than any cloth, and we may not hope to conceal the rotten hours we have woven into it.

—Our abstract will give the reader but an imperfect idea of this beautiful and profound discourse. With Mr. Emerson words are things, every part is essential to the general effect.

LECTURE V....BY REV. DR. DEWEY.

The Fifth Lecture of this course, delivered on Tuesday night in the Church of the Messiah, was devoted to a consideration of the complex nature of man, consisting of soul and body, as adapted to his spiritual culture. This condition of his being gave rise to the different ages of life. In each of these, we may notice tendencies, which show the care of Providence for the development of character. Childhood is comparatively free from selfishness and sensuality. Its faults are on the surface. Instances of sinfulness do not harden into habitual transgressions.

On the approach to manhood, a great change takes place. The looks, the voice, the temper, the manners, the intellect show that a new stage of existence has been reached. The era of individual independent action commences. Deprived of the guidance by which he has thus far been reared, man is thrown upon his own resources. Old age succeeds in which he is prepared to renounce this form of being. It is the sacred transition to the unseen world. Under this head Dr. D. administered a rebuke to the prevailing habit of society, by which the old are permitted to slide out of influence and notice. He would not have society so exclusively in the hands of the young. It was a bad symptom when different ages were separated in social pleasures. A man ought not to say I am getting old—I will therefore retire from the active interests of society,—and let my place be filled by those who are younger and brighter than myself. Old age even has its peculiar beauty, which Dr. D. said he was almost inclined to prefer to that of youth. The form venerable with the dignity of many years—the mind ripened in the school of experience—the manners chastened by a long acquaintance with human nature into considerate courtesy,—these naturally awaken a sentiment of reverence and can be regarded by none but a vulgar mind with out emotion.

The complex nature of man, moreover, places him in society, with all its comprehensive and powerful influences. This was the grand educator of the race. Some of its features have been considered unfavorable to human development, such as its selfishness, its inequalities, its competition, its solidarity. But the ill-effects of these had been greatly exaggerated. Wealth and rank are the objects of strong aversion with many: they have been called in question by the moralist, ridiculed by the satirist, and abused by the cynic. But they form a part of the inevitable system of inequality which prevails in the world. I am opposed, indeed, said Dr. D. to the possession of hereditary wealth, founded on a system of entails. But where every man has a fair chance, no hurtful inequalities can exist. And you cannot do them away. Make all men equal to-morrow, they would at once change places, and the old distinctions would return. Nor was competition so ripe as it was often stated. There was little of it in the country. It was almost exclusively confined to cities. The farmer was content to till his ground, without envying the crops of his neighbor. And without any competition, what fatal stagnation would ensue!

The influence of sex, and family, was then treated by Dr. D. together with the bond and balance arising from man's complex nature, but the crowded state of our columns compels us to limit our report to the above imperfect sketch.

The Compromise and Union Party—The North
and the Presidency.
Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 9, 1852.
The Fugitive Slave law is NOT in the

Did it never occur to that portion of the country lying south of Mason and Dixon's line, that things are rapidly tending to the formation of *Sectional parties*? Can any thinking man, with his eyes open to the progress of events, fail to see in the restlessness and disintegration of parties which has manifested and is now manifesting itself in the North and in the South, the strong tendency to new combinations of the old elements of which they are and have been composed? Do not all the signs point to this—that but little is wanted to make the North a unit, and but little is wanted to make the South a unit on the Slavery question? We do not mean to say that it would be easy to convert the North into a great Abolition party. By no means. But

only that it would not be difficult to concentrate the North on the ground of her right to assert and to vote her convictions on the subject of Slavery, in Congress, in defiance of all opposition.

There has been a great effort made since General TAYLOR'S death, on the part of the Administration, Mr. WEBSTER, Mr. CLAY, and various distinguished gentlemen on the other side, to form a *Compromise or Union party*; which, being interpreted, means a Northern party of controlling force, that shall succumb to the demands of the South on the subject of Slavery, up to a certain point. There is, to be sure, an extreme Slavery party at the South which refuses to be satisfied

with so much concession as the Union or Compromise party is disposed to make. But this argues nothing against our position, the truth of which is made abundantly manifest in the daily walk and conversation of the aforesaid party. It demands, not that the *South* shall do anything or refrain from doing anything, but that the *North* shall refrain, by word and deed, from agitating the Slavery question.

The Compromise allies allege that this question has been *settled*, and that it must not be again disturbed from the eternal sleep to which it

Well, its success has this party met with backed, as it has been, by the powerful names and determined efforts of the two most distinguished men of the country and the entire influence of the existing Administration, and a large majority of the last Congress! Has it been such as to warrant the conclusion that the North *approves* such a compromise? Where is the stolidity that would declare this? Do not both parties in the North handle the Compromise question as one would handle a hot iron? Does not everybody know that both parties stand upon the ground of a reluctant acquiescence in it, and that it is every

where just such an acquiescence as every man gives to what he dislikes but cannot help." But where are the Compromise men *per se* from the North, either in Congress or out of it? They do not number one man in ten. We assert, without fear of contradiction, that in the whole North, but most especially in the Whig party of the North,—and we take the members of Congress for an illustration of our assertion,—that the class of men known as "Compromise men" have no strength whatever, numerically or politically when compared with the great body of the party.

We point to this as a most significant commentary upon the general tendency and direction of opinion in the North. Notwithstanding all the influences that have been brought to bear upon the public sentiment, through the pulpit, through a subsidized religious and secular press, through the money power of the trading circles of the great cities and of the Cottonocracy generally, and above all and over all, in the direct political patronage of all branches of the Administration, given and withheld, aided by a strong pressure of political considerations operating upon the timid and the mercenary of all parties to make them yield their convictions to the alleged necessities of the time and their own presumed future well being, all combined in one vast force under the generalship of Mr. CLAY and Mr. WEBSTER, and marched to the onset with a determination to produce an overwhelming discomfiture of all opposition; notwithstanding all this, the great public sentiment of the North has borne the full brunt of the shock, and to-day, after enduring eighteen months of this kind of pressure, rises elastic and undamaged, green, vigorous, and hopeful—nine-tenths of it in full opposition to any approval of either the men or the measures of the so-called "adjustment."

Now it is in view of these facts, for the truth of which we appeal to the convictions of Southern gentlemen, (who are in a position to judge Compromisers and all; who know it, whether they will acknowledge it or not; that we base our declaration, that but slight causes are wanted to precipitate the North into one great sectional party on the subject of Slavery, and the consequent election of a President by Northern votes.

Let us make a few suppositions by way of illustration.

Suppose the Opposition Baltimore Convention exhibits, as it probably will, a decided Southern leaning, (as it may do either with or without endorsing the "Compromise,") in their general proceedings, resolutions, nominations, &c.; and suppose that after this, and quickly following the Whig Convention at Baltimore should meet and nominate General SCOTT, as he stands, without pledges, without protestations, without allusion to the "Compromise" in any form whatever; and suppose that, as a consequence of this, the Delegates of the Southern States headed by Mr. CARROLL, of Florida, whom we understand to demand a special pledge of General SCOTT to support the Fugitive Slave Law, should bolt the nomination, and leave the Convention declaring their determination not to support the nominee.

We modestly ask to be told, what would be likely to follow such a demonstration? Would not the *unreasonableness* of the thing impetuously arouse the whole North to an unshaken determination to elect Gen. Scott upon the very ground chosen by the South to defeat him? We suggest the inquiry as being one of no small significance, both in regard to the next election of President and the future organization of parties. We maintain that it is easy, in the present condition of things, to start a powerful sectional party and that the prospect would be good for its success even at the first campaign. But whether it were so or not, if started under such favorable circumstances as we have suggested, it would present a most formidable, and perhaps we ought to say, an alarming front.

Now we submit that the Northern Whigs have a right to demand of their Southern allies that they shall not be forced into any such unnatural and unwelcome position.

Where in the patriotic man, who desires to see sectional parties formed in this nation? Who wishes to see Northern Whigs and Southern Whigs fighting in opposing ranks upon a great and vital question sure to result in the most embittered animosities? Who wishes to see the North arrayed against the South, and the South arrayed against the North on a question of such painful magnitude, and such essential consequence to the South, as the subject of Slavery? We have an abiding conviction, to be sure, that even in such a contest, if the North were successful, it would not be unmindful of the demands of justice and the obligations of the constitutional duty. But the inevitable result of sectional parties must be to imperil our political union and greatly to weaken our fraternal ties.

**The Tariff—North American and European
Railway—Gen. Cass, &c.**
Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1852.

A movement was made in the House yesterday, by Mr. WELCH, of Ohio, on the Tariff question, but it found no favor. The mover was of opinion that the question (like a large proportion of subjects coming suddenly upon the House) was not understood by the members. This is charitable.

A motion of Mr. WASHINGTON, of Me., to suspend the rules for the purpose of introducing a memorial, praying the consideration of Congress toward the great enterprise of the European and North American Railway, met with no better success.

While the States in which the public land lie are pressing their gigantic schemes of improvement upon the attention of Congress, and obtaining grants of vast portions of the public domain to aid in the construction of railways and for other purposes, it would seem not inappropriate for the projectors of the great international work here spoken of, to endeavor to bring Congress to a consideration of its preliminary